

Legend Of Jesse Knight's Philanthropy Still Lives

By THERON H. LUKE

The term hadn't been coined then, but he could have been known as Provo's Rockefeller Foundation.

He was of that vanishing breed of millionaire philanthropists who cared more what their money could do for others than for themselves.

He was Jesse Knight—"Uncle Jesse" to all who knew him, both high and low — and a legend both in his own time and decades after his death.

He died in 1921 at the age of 75. His children and the Knight name lived long after him in Provo, and still do—but it was the personality and deeds of "Uncle Jesse" Knight that make him a household word even today, nearly half a century later.

One Living Daughter

His memory is undoubtedly freshest in the mind of an alert, sprightly 81-year-old Provo woman who today is his only living child—Mrs. Jennie Knight Mangum of 381 N. 4th W.

"He was a very tender man," she said . . . when I interviewed her. The remark told

volumes about the many facets of the man who at one time was perhaps a multi-millionaire — if his total holdings had been added up—and was certainly a financial power in the state, Canada, and even in South America where he had vast land holdings.

Jesse Knight got his start in the famous Humbug mine



JESSE KNIGHT

in the Tintic area. Stories about it are legend—a great many of them untrue, as many legends are about any really important man. Many call it his "dream mine," from the story that he dreamed—or was inspired — where and when to turn the shaft and encounter rich ore. It doesn't check with the facts as related in his biography by his son, J. Will Knight, a prominent Utahn in his own right (he was long a member of the Utah State Commission) who died about 10 years ago.

Origin of Name

The biography said Jesse did encounter a very definite inspiration—virtually a spiritual experience — about the area itself, but that there were no dreams directing him to turn the shaft this way or that. It did get its name from a remark made by Jared Roundy when Jesse asked him if he (Jared) wanted an interest in it. Jared is reported in the biography to have said: "I do not want an interest in a damned old humbug like this," and the Humbug was born. Jesse (See JESSE KNIGHT, Page 9)



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